



Michigan's Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume XXII, Number 1

Chartered June 24, 1884

Summer, 2008

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Danes, Editor

Department Orders #1



Series 2008 - 2009

Headquarters, Davison, Michigan

1 June 2008

1. Having been duly elected and installed, command is hereby assumed.
2. Headquarters for the Department of Michigan, SUVCW remains at 4033 Horizon Drive, Davison, MI 48423.
3. I would like to thank all the Brothers who attended the 119th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, not only for their participation in conducting the business of the Department, but also for their continued support of this administration for another term.
4. Congratulations to this year's Lincoln Award Recipients, Brother William C. Costello, PCC of Camp No. 20, Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC of Camp No. 20 and Mr. Jesse Lasorda.
5. Congratulations to the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, this year's recipient of the Gov. Austin Blair Membership Award and to Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250, this year's recipient of the Orlando LeValley Membership Award.
6. On time Camp Annual Reporting significantly improved this year. With the exception of one Camp, all Camp Annual Reports were in by the April 30th deadline. This demonstrates without a doubt, that it can be done. Therefore, from this year forward, there is absolutely no reason why every Camp in this Department should not have its' reports in on time.
7. I am pleased to report that the Department Annual Report was submitted on time to the National Organization, SUVCW. This is not an easy task and Department Secretary Kevin Lindsey is to be commended for his hard work and dedication in accomplishing this.
8. If this Department is to continue to grow and prosper, we must not only focus on new member recruitment, but also on member retention. Since last year's Annual Report we gained 57 Brothers, unfortunately over the same period we also lost 47 Brothers for a net gain of only 10 Brothers. New member recruitment and member retention are the responsibility of the Camp Junior Vice Commander.

Continued from Page 1

9. Congratulations to LeValley-Heusted Camp No. 255, Mayville, MI on the restoration and rededication of the Whiteside GAR Post No. 143 monument which is located in Indianfields Cemetery, Caro, MI.
10. There have been some instances during the past year where the appropriate Department Officers were not notified of the death of a Brother and/or Brother in distress. Please be sure to notify both Department Chaplain Bill McAfee and myself as soon as possible in these situations so that we can take the appropriate action.
11. A reminder to all Camps to make sure that your Camp websites are current and up to date.
12. This last Memorial Day I had the honor and privilege, along with Camp Commander Ed Dowd of Camp 145, to lay a wreath on behalf of the SUVCW at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. I would strongly encourage anyone who gets the chance to visit this cemetery to do so. It is impressive.
13. All Brothers are encouraged to attend the 127th Annual National Encampment of the SUVCW which will be held August 7 – 10, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. Please refer to the National SUVCW website for details.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

/s/
Dennis C. Derr II
Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
War

Attest:

/s/
Kevin J. Lindsey
Recording Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates**

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer – June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall – September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter – December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn,
Michigan 48124-3204**

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

Department Historian Report

John R. Keith, Chairman

2007-2008 Department Officers

Commander

Dennis C. Derr II, PCC
4033 Horizon Drive
Davison, MI 48423.
(810) 653-0859
dderr@chartermi.net

Senior Vice Commander

Charles Worley, PCC
25806 Ottokee Drive
Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-8077
worleyc@net-link.net

Junior Vice Commander

Donald W. Shaw, PCC
3914 Larchmont Street
Flint, MI 48532-5270
(810) 239-4785
P31713@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Kevin Lindsey, CC
6890 Norton Street
Troy, MI 48085-1659
(248) 828-3632
klindsey@comcast.net

Treasurer

Brian Shumway
127 West Walnut Street
Hastings, MI 49058-2260
(616) 945-2942
brianne127@sbcglobal.net

Department Council

Max L. Newman, PCC
Howard Streeter, PCC
Neal F. Breaugh

Chaplain

William B. McAfee, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Color Bearer

Edgar Dowd

Counselor

James Pahl

Chief of Staff

Guard

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Jeff Morse

Signals Officer

Matt Adair

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes

Historian

John R. Keith

Guide

John McFeters

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Robert Mitchell

Greetings!

A few years back while reading "MEMORIES" by Mrs. Sophia Bush, 1820-1908, I stumbled on a story about a local Civil War soldier.

It stated:

"When George Kennicott and his family left Gun Plain Township, Plainwell was in its infancy. Sadly did we miss them. Kalamazoo had reached some distinction in the way of school privileges and there they went to educate a son and daughter.

The latter, Miss Clara Kennicott is well known here. James Kennicott, the son, enlisted and gave his life for his country; "he died in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, shot by Morgan's men early in the siege. His father found his body and took it to Arlington, near Washington D.C. and he is interred there."

I started thinking about that statement about James Kennicott a few weeks back and decided to see if he was listed in any of the Civil War Soldiers gravesites online.

I checked all of the websites I knew of that listed the soldier's graves and he was not in any of them, not even on our Department or our National website. It was then I contacted U.S. Senator Carl Levin's Chief-of-Staff, Mr. David Lyles for help. He has helped me several times in past few years on Civil War related matters, and since Arlington National Cemetery was just across the river from Mr. Lyles I asked him if he would try find out if Private Kennicott was indeed buried in Arlington.

Mr. Lyles contacted the Webmaster for Arlington National Cemetery with my question and in a couple days I not only had confirmation that Private James C. Kennicott was indeed interred in Arlington, but also pictures of his stone.

It turns out that the Arlington National Cemetery Webmaster, Mr. Michael Patterson is a Michigan native and he was excited about helping a Michigan Organization find a Michigan Soldier.

I want to thank Mr. David Lyles, Mr. Michael Patterson and Ms. Holly Holeman (pictures) for helping us locate a forgotten and lost, Michigan Military Hero.



The official listing at Arlington National reads-

KENNICUTT, J C

PVT 5TH MICH CAV

DATE OF DEATH: 08/19/1864

BURIED AT: SECTION 13 SITE 13325

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Brown Book (Thanks to Bro Bill Lowe, Austin Blair Camp No. 7)

Kennicott (Kennicut), James C., Kalamazoo. Enlisted in company L, Fifth Cavalry, Aug. 19, 1862, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered Sept. 2, 1862. Killed by guerrillas at Berryville, Va., Aug. 19, 1864. (exactly 2 years later)

If Mrs. Sutherland over 100 years ago had not mentioned that statement about James Kennicott's body being taken to Arlington, we wouldn't have known where to look.

**You can learn by looking back, you just have to listen! **

Email Hardtackcw@aol.com

119th Encampment – Department of Michigan

On April 25 and 26, the Department of Michigan Allied Orders held the 119th Encampment at the South Lansing Christian Church. Below are all of the significant photos that I have received from this event.



Department Commander Dennis Derr is installed for a second term of office by PDC Richard Greene.



With Commander Derr are recipients of the 2008 Abraham Lincoln Award –Jesse La Sorda, PCC Bill Costello, and Gary Gibson PDC , PCC for their work in Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo.



Department Officers Linda Kronberg, President of the Auxillary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Joanne N. Boorsma, President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; Dennis Derr, Commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; and Gracanne Smith, President of the Woman's Relief Corps are introduced at the luncheon.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2

Submitted by Bruce Miller, SVC



The General Israel B. Richardson Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War recognized 1st Lieutenant Brooke Pino with the SUVCW ROTC Award at the recent Air Force Junior ROTC Military Ball. Pictured are Lt. Pino (left), a senior at Anchor Bay High School, and SUVCW ROTC Chairman Gary Grout.

The Oakland & Macomb County, Michigan Camp 2 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) recently recognized a deserving local cadet with the presentation of their ROTC Award, given for outstanding achievement. The recognition came at an April 18, 2008 Military Ball. The award recipient was 1st Lieutenant Brooke Pino, a senior at Anchor Bay High School and a member of the school's Air Force Junior ROTC Unit MI-931.

Curtenius Guard Camp 17

By Brian Shumway



On April 29, Camp 17 hosted Mr. Rick Brown, an Abraham Lincoln authority, who spoke at the Sunfield Community Hall. Commander Dave Arnold is shown Presenting Brown with a Certificate of Appreciation.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦ

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp # 20

Submitted By John R. Keith CC

Greetings from Camp 20.

It has been another exciting year for us here in Camp 20.
We have two new members who joined our camp this year.

Please join us in welcoming-

Bro. David L. Conklin lives in Battle Creek, MI and has joined the SUVCW in honor of his Great Grandfather David Conklin, who was a private in Company C of the 13th Indiana Infantry.
Bro. Kirk W. Walstedt who lives in Essex, Ontario, Canada and has joined the SUVCW in honor of his Great Great Granduncle, James Kerr who was a private in Battery I, 1st Michigan Light Artillery.
Also help us in welcoming back to Camp 20, Bro. Mark Anderson of Florida who was reinstated after a year hiatus. Welcome back Bro. Anderson!

[CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OWN CAMP 20 BROTHERS, GARY GIBSON AND WILLIAM COSTELLO for being awarded the Abraham Lincoln Award by Department Commander Derr for their work on the Riverside Cemetery project.](#)

MEMORIAL DAY CAMP 20 EVENTS FOR 2008

CEMETERY CLEANUP

Our annual clean up around the G.A.R. Monument at Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo, was on Saturday, May 17th, our Sisters in the newly formed Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent 58, DUVCW joined us.

This year after the clean up, we went to Mountain Home Cemetery, Kalamazoo, and placed flags on veteran's graves.

Camp 20 member marched in the Memorial Day Parade, May 26th in Allegan, we will also laid a wreath at the cemetery program after the parade.

Camp 20 also conducted a small ceremony at the grave of General Benj. Pritchard and also paid our respects at the grave of our late Camp Commander, Del Farnsworth on that day.

Memorial Day, May 30th, Camp 20 and Tent #58 DUVCW performed a ceremony at 7PM at the G.A.R Monument at Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo.

We at Camp 20 were honored to host a Medal of Honor Gravestone Dedication on June 7th, 2008 for LT. Elliott Malloy Norton. He is interred at Liberty Street Cemetery, Alamo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Please join us if you can

Elliot Norton earned the Medal of Honor at Deatonville (Sailor's Creek) Virginia.

He served our country in Companies B and H of the 6th Michigan Cavalry, and Adjutant in the 1st and 7th Michigan Cavalry.

Robert Finch Camp #14

Submitted by Neal F. Breaugh, Secretary-Treasurer
April to June 2008 Report

In May, Camp 14 was honored to have a visit from its London England Member Andrew Hopkinson. At its meeting on May 10th, Andrew delivered a very interesting and entertaining presentation on "What Is A Brit Doing In The SUVCW" Andrew and his traveling companions Trevor and Moira actually arrived on May 8th and spent 4 days with Neal & Emily Breaugh. On Friday, we visited Manistee where we located the grave site of Andrew's ancestor, George Poskitt. On Saturday & Sunday, we managed to find time to visit some Leelanau wineries as well as some on the Old Mission Peninsula before our guests left for New Hampshire to visit friends there.

Andrew's two ancestors, George and his younger brother Frederick, came to Michigan in 1852. George enlisted in the 4th Michigan in February, 1862 and was promoted to Corporal. He served in the Peninsula Campaign, being at the siege of Yorktown and the battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill and Williamsburg. George was given a medical discharge in September, but reenlisted in December 1863 and served in the heavy artillery regiment, 6th Michigan Infantry. He was at Fort Morgan and participated in the siege of Forts Spanish, Huger, Tracy, and Morgan, Alabama. He was discharged in February, 1865

George's younger brother Frederick enlisted in February, 1864, claiming to be 18 when in fact he was only 16. He served in the 27th Michigan Infantry. He fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania (including the Salient), North Anna River, Cold Harbor, and at Petersburg, where he was taken prisoner. No more is heard of him; so Brother Andrew assumes he died as a prisoner of war. However, we have enlisted the aid of the History Detective, Brother Chris Czopek of Camp 22 to see if he can find any additional information.

After the war, George Poskitt returned to Manistee where he died in 1923 and is buried with his wife in Oak Grove Cemetery in Manistee (see photo)

As usual, Camp 14 Members participated in several area Memorial Day Ceremonies (we cover 10 counties). In Traverse City, PCC Skillman, JVC Aurand, Chaplain Gray, Color Bearer Conger, and Brother Byrne represented us. At Northport in Leelanau County, PCC Breaugh, Brother Winnie, and Auxiliary PP Breaugh were in attendance.

In the Village of Lake Ann, SVC Morse, J. Morse SR, J. Morse JR., and Brother Slis actually organized and conducted the ceremony. SVE Morse then joined the VFW group and attended presentations at 7 different sites and then he and his father J. Morse SR. ended up in Frankfort with the American Legion. Other Camp Members participated in Harbor Springs, Cadillac, and Manistee. We also should have a large contingent at the Flag Day ceremonies to be held at the Traverse City Elks Lodge.

The summer should prove to be spectacular. June 21st has been set as the date for the dedication of the restoration of Petoskey-Confederate Cannon along with appropriate plaque. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 A.M. and will be held in Arlington Park, the site of the 1899 GAR Department of Michigan Encampment.

This Confederate Cannon was found buried in Petoskey in 1996. It was manufactured in Augusta, Georgia, and may be the only one of its kind in existence.

On August 23rd, at 10:00 A.M. the Camp will dedicate two plaques in Traverse City—one describing our recently restored "Old Soldiers" Monument, and the other giving the history of the Civil War Naval Cannon that sits next to it. This date was selected because it is the 150th anniversary of the commissioning of the U.S.S. Sabine, on which our cannon served. Department Civil War Memorials Officer Doug Armstrong will be our guest speaker.

All brothers are invited to attend both of these historic ceremonies.

Andrew Hopkinson and Neal Breaugh at Oak Grove Cemetery, Manistee



Andrew Hopkinson, a British citizen and Member of Camp 17.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427
 By Rick Danes, CC

In Camp 427, we have welcomed eight new Members since January 1st they are: Jason and Jeffrey Fite, Bill Hanusik, Martin A. P. Treppa, Dale Worcester, Henry Heatley, Ken Roberts, and Christopher J. Yagley.

During each camp's year, hopefully there are a few memorable and even defining activities. For us, we have had several, including the dedication of a headstone at Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit for Private Sanford Smith, Company E 3rd Michigan Cavalry, and Company C, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. Smith is the Second Great Grand Uncle of our Member Gerry S. Radloff.

Another high point has been marching in the Dearborn Memorial Day Parade, followed a few days later by our traditional Decoration Day Ceremony Conducted at the 1833 Dearbornville Arsenal Commandant's Quarters. We will continue our active season with a Camp fundraising garage sale, a family picnic, and continued work in the cemeteries.



ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Riverside Cemetery, Kalamazoo Rededication Ceremony



PC-in-C Jim Pahl participated in the Memorial Day dedication of the recently restored G.A.R. plot in the Riverside Cemetery at Albion, MI. Several of the headstones were replaced and the plaque, on a granite monument, had been removed and professionally restored.

After the ceremony Brother Pahl went to the grave of Washington Gardner, also in Riverside Cemetery, '...strewing it with flowers...' as General Order No. 11 suggests. Washington Gardner, a resident of Albion, was the only man from the Department of Michigan to serve the G.A.R. as Commander in Chief .



PC-in -C Pahl is wearing the actual delegate badge that Comrade Washington wore at the National Encampment in Detroit in 1914.

Photos by Dale Tuckey

Department Graves Registration Committee

Rick Danes, Chairman

A recent request for information from our Brothers in the Department of California And Pacific led Michigan Brothers Chris Czopek, Bill Lowe, and myself to gather information about Joseph Clovese, Michigan's last living Civil War Veteran.

A quick trip to Perry Mount Park Cemetery's Veterans Section in Pontiac, and general instructions that "Clovese is buried in the third row from the fence behind the flagpole" well, you've been there, just not with six inches of snow on the ground!

Your graves Registration Committee will have had a first quarter meeting when you read this newsletter. We continue to be an afterthought in many Camps as far as programs, in spite of Department and National Recognition. Can you think of a more appropriate way to honor our forefathers than to discover where they rest and make sure that the place is properly marked? We have lost several valued members of our committee recently, including Brothers Jim Lyons, Charles LaBo, Bob Groves. Others who have been appointed Camp GROs seem to be in that position forever, but never attend a meeting, nor submit records or reports. On the bright side, we welcome Brothers Steven Charles and Gary Beltrame of Camp 266, Brother Mark Hoffman of Camp 17, and welcome back Brother Dick Williams of Camp 58. What are the rest of you waiting on?

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

A Visit to the Grave of Captain Wirz

By Chris Czopek Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22

My research on Michigan soldiers at Andersonville introduced me to Captain Wirz. He was the acting commander of the infamous prison, and survivors blamed him for the deaths of 13,000 prisoners. After the war Wirz was arrested, taken to Washington, put on trial, condemned and hanged - the only Confederate executed for war crimes. Not everyone agrees he was guilty as charged. Former prisoner James Page of the 6th Michigan Cavalry thought the trial was an injustice, and he wrote a book about it. Morgan Dowling of the 17th Michigan Infantry spoke of one kind act from Wirz that probably saved his life. Those stories impressed me. I resolved to visit the Wirz grave next time I was in Washington.

A few weeks ago I was in DC on a research trip. The National Archives is closed on Sunday. The Washington Monument hands out admission tickets at 9am, and my ticket was for entry at 1pm. I had four hours to kill on a sunny, Sunday morning.

"Time to visit the Captain" I thought. Rode the Metrorail to the NEW YORK ST/Galludet University station. From there I took a cab to Mt Olivet Catholic Cemetery. Found the place well maintained and beautifully landscaped, with trees and hills and winding roads. Had no idea where the Wirz grave was, but I knew exactly how to search. Ditched my briefcase behind a large stone, lit a cigar, and casually walked around the older part of the cemetery. Found what I was looking for in ten minutes. The

Wirz grave is not far from the main entrance gate, in Section 27. The Sons of Confederate Veterans marked it with a big, iron "Cross of Honor" to make it easy to spot. The actual gravestone is small and lies flat on the ground. I was surprised to see it looking dirty and neglected. Leaves and twigs were scattered on the stone, and grass had grown over the edges far enough to cover parts of the inscription. If this were a Union soldier grave, I would clean it up before taking a picture. But this was, of all people, the infamous Captain Wirz! What should I do? I Smoked my cigar for a few minutes and thought things over. Glanced at my watch - I had 15 minutes before heading back. That would be enough time. Threw away my cigar and got to work. To trim around the sides of the stone, I pulled a pop can out of a trash barrel, stomped it flat, and used it as a edging tool. Took a washcloth from my lunch bag, wet it at a nearby faucet, and scrubbed the stone clean. When done, the gravestone was ready to "pass inspection". Fetched my camera and waited for the stone to dry. That gave me a couple minutes to reflect on what I had just done. Realized I feel some sympathy for the guy. There were times when the Captain showed generosity to Michigan prisoners [like Morgan Dowling]. Those who show generosity deserve some in return. Rest in Peace, Captain Wirz.



2nd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry

By Jim Pahl, PCinC, PD, PCC

The Second Infantry was enlisted for Federal duty under the first proclamation of President Lincoln on April 13, 1861, calling for 75,000 volunteers of the organized militia of the States to serve three months service. The Regiment was formed and accepted into Federal service as a three month Regiment. After the companies rendezvoused, there was subsequent instruction from the war department, so the regiment was re-organized and re-enlisted as a three year Regiment. The militia accepted into Federal service were the "Detroit Scott Guard", the "Adrian Guard", the "Hudson Artillery" (as Infantry), the "Flint Union Guard", the "Battle Creek Artillery" (as Infantry), the "Constantine Union Guard", the "East Saginaw Guard", the "Kalamazoo Light Guard", the "Kalamazoo No. 2" and the "Niles Company".

The order was given to rendezvous at the agricultural fair grounds in Detroit on April 25th. Much earlier than expected, the companies were all in camp by the 27th, finding the quarters they reported to were not prepared for their reception. These first quarters were named Cantonment Blair.

The Regiment was ordered to Fort Wayne, where its recruitment was completed, being mustered into Federal service on May 25, 1861, with 1013 officers and men on its rolls, making them the first of the three year Regiments to be raised in the State. The Regiment moved from Fort Wayne on June 06th., for the field in Virginia, arriving in Washington D.C. on June 10th.

The Ladies of Niles had given a National Colors of silk to Company E before it left that city to join the Regiment in Detroit, which afterwards became the Regimental Colors. The flag was carried by the Regiment through the battle of Fredericksburg, when it had become so tattered by wear and by some 40 bullet holes, it transferred back to the ladies. The flag is currently part of the holdings of the state of Michigan. Eleven of its upholders or defenders were either killed or wounded.

The Regiments first engagement was at Blackburn's Ford on July 18, 1861. The Regiment, was not actually engaged at Bull Run, but along with the Third Michigan, assisted in covering the retreat of the Union army. During the winter the Regiment stayed near Alexandria, Virginia.

In March, under the command of Colonel Orlando M. Poe, Lieutenant of the U.S. Engineer Corp, who had been commissioned a Colonel September 16, 1861, they entered on the Peninsular Campaign of 1862, serving in Berry's Brigade, Kearny's Division, Heintzelman's Corp, being the Third Brigade, Third Division, Third Corp, taking part in the Siege of Yorktown, participating in the following engagements, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Richmond, White Oak Swamp, Charles City Cross Roads, and Malvern Hill. At Fair Oaks, the Second, was conspicuously marked for bravery.

The Regiment crossed the Rappahannock River on the first day of the battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 12th, but was held in reserve during the battle. In February of 1863, the Regiment with its Brigade moved to Kentucky, eventually joining the army of General Grant in Mississippi. It served with distinction in the Siege of Vicksburg. After its surrender, the regiment moved with the army of General Sherman, a part of which was the Ninth Corp, in pursuit of General Johnston.

After some minor engagements, the Regiment actively assisted in the Defense of Knoxville until the 4th of December, when the Southern troops withdrew. The hardships and privations of the siege were very great, the men suffering especially from want of sufficient food and clothing.

In January of 1864, 198 members of the Regiment re-enlisted as Veteran Volunteers. The regiment received orders to report to Detroit, arriving there on the 24th, the returning veterans were furloughed for 30 days.

Rendezvousing at Mt.Clemens, the regiment was ordered on the 4th of April 1864 to proceed to Annapolis, Maryland to rejoin its Corp, which had moved from East Tennessee back to the Army of the Potomac, arriving on May 5th and becoming involved in the battle of the Wilderness, where the Second suffered its greatest privations and glories.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Shortly thereafter, the Second was in the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, where a rebel Brigade advanced rapidly and unexpectedly on a battery of four guns, killing or wounding every man before a gun could be fired and taking possession of some of the guns. The Second's commander instantly called for volunteers, who manned the remaining guns, putting in a double charge of canister to those, that were already loaded, and with these guns loaded to the muzzles, opened a terrific and destructive fire on the Confederate Brigade, with great slaughter, checking it and driving it from the attack, saving the rest of the battery and preventing an overwhelming charge on the remaining union troops in the vicinity.

On the 23rd of May the Regiment was engaged at Ox Ford, followed by North Anna River, then Cold Harbor and then moved into the siege before Petersburg. During the attack which followed the exploding of the mine on the 30th of July, the Second lost 6 killed, 14 wounded and 37 missing.

On the 3rd of April the Regiment was involved in the Capture of Petersburg. The Second was then removed from active role, moving to camp near Washington DC, where they participated in the Grand Review of the Army of the Potomac, before the President of the United States.

On the 27th of May it was detached for duty in the city of Washington, where it went into its last camp. The Second was mustered out of service on July 28 and arrived in Detroit August 1st, being paid off and disbanded August 8, 1865.

Total Enrollment, 1819; Killed in Action, 118; Died of Wounds, 100; Died in Confederate Prisons 15; Died of Disease, 109; Discharged from Wounds, 208. Total Casualty Rate 30.2%.

One of the more notable members of the regiment was Sarah Emma Edmonds, who after four failed attempts enlisted April 25, 1861 under the name of Frank Thompson as a male nurse of the regiment. A Union agent working in Richmond for McClellan was caught and executed by firing squad, leaving a void in the intelligence operations. Word went out from McClellan's staff looking for a person to act as a spy, all prior to the campaign ending in the First Battle of Bull Run. This began the first of eleven successful missions as a spy.

She followed her regiment to the west and while serving under Grant in the Vicksburg Campaign, became ill with malaria. Deciding she could not admit herself to the hospital where her true identity would be discovered, Emma decided that she had to leave camp for awhile and recover in a private hospital. Arriving in Cairo, Illinois, she once again became a woman and checked herself into a hospital for treatment of malaria. Once recovered Emma planned to don her uniform and rejoin her unit-that is until she read the army bulletins posted in the window of the Cairo newspaper office. There on the list of deserters from the Union army was the name of Private Frank Thompson.

She made her way to Washington, D.C., where she served as a nurse for the remainder of the war. In 1867 Emma married Linus Seeyle. The marriage was happy, and Emma raised three sons, one of whom enlisted in the army "just like Mama did."

Emma petitioned the War Department for a full review of her case. On July 5, 1884, by special act of Congress, Emma Edmonds alias Frank Thompson was granted an honorable discharge from the army, plus a bonus and a veteran's pension of twelve dollars a month. She is reportedly the only female member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Emma moved to La Porte, Texas, where she died on September 5, 1889. She is buried in the military section of Washington Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

A Letter From the Front

The following is a letter from my nephew who is currently in Iraq.
Submitted by John R. Keith Commander Camp 20

ALCON,

Sorry it's been so long, but the op tempo has picked up a little bit over here. The Brigade that we are currently supporting is redeploying after 15 months over here and they are trying to wrap up all of their work. To give you an idea of the good work that we have been assisting in, we have completed 22 water related projects, 9 schools, 3 agricultural, 6 health related, 1 sewer, 7 electrical, 9 road paving, 1 vet clinic, 4 irrigation, 2 Governance centers, and 2 community centers. All said and done, we have spent around \$15,943,710 of Iraqi money to help them out. I'm sure that there are probably more, but it gives you a good idea of what we have done to "Win Hearts and Minds". Most of my work is behind the scenes, behind a desk.

My company will be relocating in the next few months. I have already moved a third of my Soldiers and the rest will be gradually moving until 10 July. I will be moving 15 June and my new address will be at the bottom of this e-mail. We are moving to the other side of the river, closer to Baghdad, but still not that close. This move marks just about 50% of our deployment done. We are still slated to be home no later than 26 November 2008. If this happens, it will be ironic that both of my deployments ended right around Thanksgiving. I have to continue to keep my Soldiers focused so I can bring them all home in one piece. We have had a few minor bumps in the road, nothing severe.

Well, I have to get back to reports.

1SG Russell Babcock
WRTNAO, A/415th CA BN
FOB Hammer
APO AE 09308

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

Two years ago the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have some responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, so you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor

Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support! RD